

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

PAUL CATANO MURRAY,

Plaintiff,

v.

B. HOLMES,

Defendant.

No. 2:21-cv-0214 KJN P

ORDER AND FINDINGS &
RECOMMENDATIONS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding without counsel with a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On September 21, 2021, defendant filed a motion to dismiss. Despite being granted multiple extensions of time, plaintiff did not file an opposition.

On April 26, 2022, plaintiff was ordered to file an opposition or a statement of non-opposition to the pending motion within thirty days. In that same order, plaintiff was advised of the requirements for filing an opposition to the pending motion and that failure to oppose such a motion would be deemed as consent to have the: (a) pending motion granted; (b) action dismissed for lack of prosecution; and (c) action dismissed based on plaintiff's failure to comply with these rules and a court order. Plaintiff was also informed that failure to file an opposition would result in a recommendation that this action be dismissed pursuant to Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The thirty-day period expired and plaintiff did not respond to the court's order.

1 “Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), the district court may dismiss an
2 action for failure to comply with any order of the court.” Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258,
3 1260 (9th Cir. 1992). “In determining whether to dismiss a case for failure to comply with a
4 court order the district court must weigh five factors including: ‘(1) the public’s interest in
5 expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of
6 prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits;
7 and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.’” Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61 (quoting
8 Thompson v. Housing Auth., 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986)); see also Ghazali v. Moran, 46
9 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995).

10 In determining to recommend that this action be dismissed, the court considered the five
11 factors set forth in Ferdik. Here, as in Ferdik, the first two factors strongly support dismissal of
12 this action. The action has been pending for over sixteen months. Defendant moves to dismiss
13 on the grounds that plaintiff failed to first exhaust his administrative remedies prior to filing this
14 action, which is evident from the face of plaintiff’s complaint. (ECF No. 23.) Plaintiff’s failure
15 to comply with the Local Rules and the court’s April 26, 2022 order suggests that he abandoned
16 this action and that further time spent by the court thereon will consume scarce judicial resources
17 in addressing litigation which plaintiff demonstrates no intention to pursue.

18 Under the circumstances of this case, the third factor, prejudice to defendant from
19 plaintiff’s failure to oppose the motion, also favors dismissal. Plaintiff’s failure to oppose the
20 motion prevents defendant from addressing plaintiff’s substantive opposition, and would delay
21 resolution of this action, thereby causing defendant to incur additional time and expense.

22 The fifth factor also favors dismissal. The court advised plaintiff of the requirements
23 under the Local Rules and granted ample additional time to oppose the pending motion, all to no
24 avail. The court finds no suitable alternative to dismissal of this action.

25 The fourth factor, public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits, weighs
26 against dismissal of this action as a sanction. However, for the reasons set forth supra, the first,
27 second, third, and fifth factors strongly support dismissal. Under the circumstances of this case,
28 those factors outweigh the general public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits. See


1 Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1263. Therefore, the undersigned recommends that this action be dismissed
2 without prejudice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

3 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is directed to assign
4 a district judge to this case; and

5 IT IS RECOMMENDED that this action be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to
6 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

7 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
8 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days
9 after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written
10 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned
11 “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Any response to the
12 objections shall be filed and served within fourteen days after service of the objections. The
13 parties are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to
14 appeal the District Court’s order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

15 Dated: June 13, 2022

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17 KENDALL J. NEWMAN
18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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